

C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Sections A and B should be filled out by the project initiator (may be coupled with other park project initiation forms). Sections C-I are to be completed by the interdisciplinary team members.

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Project/PMIS Number N/A

Project Type (Check): ☐ Cyclic ☐ Cultural Cyclic ☐ Repair/Rehab ☐ ONPS
☐ NRPP ☐ CRPP ☐ FLHP
☐ Line Item ☐ Fee Demo ☐ Concession Reimbursable
☒ Other (specify) Planning Document

Project Location Park-wide

Project Originator/Coordinator Keith Kelly, District Ranger

Project Title Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Wildland Fire Management Plan

Contract # N/A Contractor Name N/A

Administrative Record Location Park Headquarters

Administrative Record Contact Lynne Wigfield, Compliance Officer

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LOCATION *[To begin the statutory compliance file, attach to this form, maps, site visit notes, agency consultation, data, reports, categorical exclusion form (if relevant), or other relevant materials.]*

Wildland fire suppression is conducted within C & O Canal as an emergency action. This plan states that other elements associated with wildland fire management, such as prescribed fire, fuel management, burned area rehabilitation, etc., are non-emergency actions and will be individually evaluated under the requirements of NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other applicable regulations.

Fires are an inherent possibility, regardless of location. Without a fire suppression plan, these fires and the resulting suppression actions could cause irreversible damage to both cultural and natural resources. This plan outlines actions that will be taken in the event of a wildland fire. Its primary goal is to protect resources by using the most aggressive fire suppression measures as a last resort.

Director's Order #12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making addresses NEPA compliance for the National Park Service. It lists various activities that qualify as categorical exclusions (CE) which do not require environmental assessments or environmental impact statements. However, these categorical exclusions did not adequately address the topic of fire management. The *Federal Register*, June 5, 2003, Vol 68, No. 108, pages 33814-33824, amends the categorical exclusion list by adding two CEs for fire management that will expedite compliance for smaller, more routine situations. These **new categorical exclusions** are:

1.12 Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres. Such activities:

- Shall be limited to areas (1) in wildland-urban interface and (2) Condition Classes 2 or 3 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III, outside the wildland urban interface;
- Shall be identified through a collaborative framework as described in "A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan;"
- Shall be conducted consistent with agency and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans;
- Shall not be conducted in wilderness areas or impair the suitability of wilderness study areas for preservation of wilderness;
- Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and may include the sale of vegetative material if the primary purpose of the activities is hazardous fuels reduction."

1.13 Post-fire rehabilitation activities for lands and infrastructure impacted by fires or fire suppression not to exceed 4,200 acres (such as tree planting, fence replacement, habitat restoration, repair of roads and trails, and repairs of damage to minor facilities such as campgrounds) to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition from wildland fire damage, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. Such activities;

- Shall be conducted consistent with agency and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans;
- Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and
- Shall be completed within three years following a wildland fire.

Because C & O Canal staff has chosen a suppression-only policy for the park, this policy meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion 1.12. Due to the cultural resource base of the C&O Canal, all post-fire rehabilitation actions, even if they meet the criteria of CE #1.13, will be processed through the NEPA Environmental Screening Process of Director's Order #12, NHPA, and other applicable regulations. The Environmental Screening Form (ESF) and support material for the review of this *Wildland Fire Management Plan* 2004 is included in Appendix H.

Draft plan attached? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Background info attached? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Date form initiated 10/18/04

Anticipated compliance completion date 12/31/04

Projected advertisement/Day labor start N/A

Projected construction start N/A

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

C. POTENTIAL RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER *(Please see section F (Instructions for Determining Appropriate NEPA Pathway) prior to completing this section. Also, use the process described in DO-12, 2.9 and 2.10; 3.5; 4.5(G) to (G)(5) and 5.4 F to help determine the context, duration, and intensity of effects on resources.)*

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural or cultural resources? ¹	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine
Geological resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		X			
From geohazards	X				
Air quality			X		
Soundscapes		X			
Water quality or quantity			X		
Streamflow characteristics			X		
Marine or estuarine resources		X			
Floodplains or wetlands			X		
Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use		X			
Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine			X		Potential exists that rare and endangered plants may be affected by emergency fires and resulting suppression.
Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat			X		Potential exists that rare and endangered plants may be affected by emergency fires and resulting suppression
Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites		X			
Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat		X			
Unique, essential or important fish or fish habitat		X			
Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)		X			
Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.		X			
Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		X			
Archeological resources		X			
Prehistoric/historic structures			X		Potential exists that historic structures related to the operational period of the C&O Canal could be affected by emergency fires and resulting suppression.
Cultural landscapes			X		Potential exists that cultural landscapes related to the operational period of the C&O Canal could be affected by emergency fires and resulting suppression.
Ethnographic resources		X			

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural or cultural resources? ¹	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine
Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)		X			
Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure		X			
Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.		X			
Energy resources		X			
Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies		X			
Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability		X			
Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.		X			
Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity		X			
Other important environmental resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?		X			

¹ Potential effects are identified by the interdisciplinary team through the analysis process described in DO-12 §2.9 and §4.5(G)(4) to (G)(5). For example, negligible effects would be at the lowest levels of detection (barely detectable) and localized. Minor effects would affect a relatively small number of resources, features, or individuals of populations and the effects would be localized and not have an appreciable impact.

Comments

Since the compliance review is for a plan, rather than a typical physical project, the above ratings were based on a hypothetical/typical emergency wildland fire within the park that would be governed by the Wildland Management Plan.

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have material adverse effects on public health or safety?		X	
B. Have adverse effects on such unique characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks?		X	Plan outlines measures taken to mitigate damage to resources during wildland fire suppression activities
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects?		X	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X	

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X	
F. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects? (<i>Note: consider specific occurrences of past impacts to resources in your analysis.</i>)		X	
G. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?		X	
H. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X	
I. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?		X	
J. Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X	
K. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E))?		X	
L. Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?		X	
M. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?		X	
N. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?		X	Areas affected by fires would be monitored by Natural Resource staff for infiltration of unwanted vegetation. Removal would be in accordance with Exotic Plant Management.
O. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, growth or expansion of the range of non-native invasive species (EO 13112)?		X	Areas affected by fires would be monitored by Natural Resource staff for infiltration of unwanted vegetation. Removal would be in accordance with Exotic Plant Management.
P. Require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed, unless the agency from which the permit is required agrees that a CE is appropriate?		X	
Q. Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe?		X	
R. Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?		X	
S. Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?		X	

E. OTHER INFORMATION (Please answer the following questions/provide requested information.)

NOTE – since this review is regarding a plan for wildland fire suppression, the “site” as listed below is park-wide and the reviewing staff are familiar with the entire park.

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did personnel visit site? ☒ Yes ☐ No (*If yes, attach meeting notes re: when site visit took place, who attended, etc.*)

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? ☒ Yes ☐ No If so, plan name Director's Order #18

Is the project still consistent with the approved plan? ☒ Yes ☐ No (*If no, you may need to prepare*

plan/EA or EIS.)

Is the environmental document accurate and up-to-date? ☒ Yes ☐ No *(If no, you may need to prepare plan/EA or EIS.)*

FONSI ☐ ROD ☐ *(Check one)* Date approved _____

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you make a diligent effort to contact them? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ NA *(If yes, attach additional pages re: consultations, including the name, dates, and a summary of comments from other agencies or tribal contacts.)*

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action (e.g. other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)? ☐ Yes ☒ No *(If yes, attach additional pages detailing the other actions.)*

Is implementation of the project likely to disturb human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)? ☐ Yes ☒ No *(If yes, please answer the following two questions.)*

Is an approved plan of action in place to address inadvertent discoveries of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony? ☐ Yes ☒ No *(If no, how will inadvertent discoveries be dealt with?)*

Will the project result in the **intentional** excavation of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony? ☐ Yes ☒ No *(If yes, notify the regional ethnographer. Remember—intentional excavation can only proceed after consultation with affiliated Indian tribes, and the excavation must be done in accordance with the Archeological Resources Protection Act and its implementing regulations.)*

F. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETERMINING APPROPRIATE NEPA PATHWAY

Complete the following tasks: conduct a site visit or ensure that staff is familiar with the site's specifics; consult with affected agencies, and/or tribes; and interested public and complete this environmental screening form.

First, always check DO-12, section 3.2, "Process to Follow" in determining whether the action is categorically excluded from additional NEPA analyses. Other sections within DO-12, including sections 2.9 and 2.10; 3.5; 4.5(G)(4) and (G)(5), and 5.4(F), should also be consulted in determining the appropriate NEPA pathway. Complete the following tasks: conduct a site visit or ensure that staff is familiar with the site's specifics; consult with affected agencies, and/or tribes; and interested public and complete this environmental screening form.

If your action is described in DO-12 section 3.3, "CE's for Which No Formal Documentation is Necessary," follow the instructions indicated in that section.

If your action is not described in DO-12, section 3.3, and IS described in section 3.4, AND you checked yes or identified "data needed to determine" impacts in any block in section D (Mandatory Criteria), this is an indication that there is potential for significant impacts to the human environment, therefore, you must prepare an EA or EIS or supply missing information to determine context, duration and intensity of impacts.

If your action is described in section 3.4 and NO is checked for all boxes in section D (Mandatory Criteria), AND there are either no effects or **all** of the potential effects identified in Section C (Potential Resource Effects to Consider) are of negligible to minor intensity, usually there is no potential for significant impacts and an EA or EIS is not required. If, however, during internal scoping and further investigation, resource effects still remain unknown, or are at the minor to moderate level of intensity, and the potential for significant impacts may be likely, an EA or EIS is required.

In all cases, data collected to determine the appropriate NEPA pathway must be included in the administrative record.

G. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES (All interdisciplinary team members must sign.)

By signing this form, you affirm the following: you have either completed a site visit or are familiar with the specifics of the site; you have consulted with affected agencies and tribes; and you, to the best of your knowledge, have answered the questions posed in the checklist correctly.

Interdisciplinary Team Leader Name	Discipline/Field of Expertise	Date
LYNNE WIGFIELD	COMPLIANCE OFFICER	11-17-04
Technical Specialists Names	Discipline/Field of Expertise	Date
JAMES PERRY	HISTORIAN	11/16/04
MARIE FRIAS SAUTER	NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST	11-16-2004
WILLIAM SPINRAD	ACTING CHIEF OF RESOURCES	11/16/04
ROB DANNO	CHIEF RANGER	11/17/04
BILL JUSTICE	CHIEF OF INTERPRETATION	11/15/04
ROBERT HARTMAN	CHIEF OF MAINTENANCE	11/18/04
DALE PETRUCCI	SAFETY OFFICER	11-18-04

H. This section may be filled out either as the project progresses or when environmental documentation is complete.

National Environmental Policy Act

Data entered by: 10/18/04

(Choose one and fill in blanks)

☒ CE Complete sections A-F before checking this box. Register, June 5, 2003, Vol 68, No. 108, pages 33814-33824, - CE # 1.12 CE Citation (from 3-4 of DO-12)

1.12 Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres. Such activities:

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- Shall be conducted consistent with agency and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans;
- Shall not be conducted in wilderness areas or impair the suitability of wilderness study areas for preservation of wilderness;
- Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and may include the sale of vegetative material if the primary purpose of the activities is hazardous fuels reduction."

(note: actions categorical excluded under NEPA must still be reviewed for compliance with Section 106.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	Public scoping date _____	EA release to public _____	FONSI date _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	EIS	NOI in FR _____	NOA for DEIS _____	
		NOA for FEIS _____	ROD date _____	

Will the EA/EIS be used as the Section 106 compliance document? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, you must notify in advance the SHPO/THPO and ACHP of your intent to do so (36 CFR 800[c]). Date notified: _____

National Historic Preservation Act

Data entered by: 10/18/04

Has the area been surveyed and NRHP resources identified? ☒ Yes ☐ No

In accordance with NPS 28 "Cultural Resource Management Guideline," wildland fires and their suppression are to be addressed in an emergency operations plan, as directed in Director's Order #18. DO-28 states, "With wildland and prescribed fires, as with structural fires, a paramount concern is resource protection, both cultural and natural. To ensure that fire management plans address cultural resource concerns, cultural resource specialists should participate in their preparation. In addition, staff charged with fire management should be informed about significant archeological sites whose locations are confidential. Plans should also make provision for archeological surveys to precede fire line construction, for protecting cultural landscape features, and for dealing with ethnographic concerns. Additionally, post-fire terrain rehabilitation for cultural resources may need to be included in follow-up activities. (For further guidance see the *Fire Management Guideline [DO-18], Executive Summary and Chapters 2 and 5.*)"

Additionally, NPS-28 addresses emergency management with the following:

"From time to time emergencies arise in parks, centers, and other locations with cultural resources. Staffs must respond to avert disaster, protect life and property, and restore order with the goal of resuming normal operations as quickly as possible. Emergency operations plans (EOPs) can help them do so.

Managers should thoroughly consider the protection of cultural resources when preparing EOPs. EOPs should identify the potential threats to cultural resources and prescribe ways to mitigate against, respond to, and recover from them. Cultural resource specialists should be included on incident management teams."

At this time, the park has prepared the emergency operations plan regarding wildland fires. Due to the nature of a wildland fire as an emergency, it is not feasible to give a normal assessment of effects rating to potentially affected cultural resources. Should damage be incurred to any cultural resources because of a wildland fire or its suppression activities, the park's compliance staff will convene to assess the damage and determine the most appropriate preservation treatment methods.

Archeological resources affected? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 Historic structures affected? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Cultural landscapes affected? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 Ethnographic resources affected? ☐ Yes ☒ No (If yes, affected parties contacted? ☐ Yes ☐ No)

Choose one of the following for determination of effect on National Register eligible or listed resources:

☐ *No Historic Properties Affected*

Date documentation sent to SHPO/THPO _____
 Date of response from SHPO/THPO _____

☒ *No Adverse Effect*

☒ Stipulation VII.

NOTE: The Maryland Historical Trust will be consulted regarding this plan. Please see MITIGATIONS on page 11 of this form for further information regarding cultural resources.

Date, if appropriate, of letter to SHPO/THPO & ACHP declaring intention
 of using EA/EIS as Section 106 compliance document _____
 Date AEF or combined EA/AEF to SHPO/THPO _____
 Date of response from SHPO/THPO _____
 Date mitigation completed _____

☐ *Adverse Effect*

Date, if appropriate, of letter to SHPO/THPO & ACHP declaring intention
 of using EA/EIS as Section 106 compliance document _____
 Date AEF or combined EA/AEF to SHPO/THPO _____
 Date to ACHP, if necessary _____
 MOA Date _____
 Date mitigation completed _____

Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act

Data entered by: _____

Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony inadvertently disturbed?
☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, complete the following.)

Date of discovery _____
 Date consultation initiated with affiliated Native American group _____
 Date written plan of action signed _____

Were cultural items left in place and the site secured? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If no, please complete the following.)

Date written notification sent regarding excavation _____
 Date written plan of action signed _____
 Date Archeological Resources Protection Act permit issued _____

Date excavation completed _____

Dates Notice of Intended Disposition published in newspapers _____

Post Disposition Options

Date claimant took physical custody _____

Date of reburial on federal land _____

Date custody was transferred _____

Endangered Species Act

Data entered by: _____

Any threatened/endangered species in area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If species in area ☐ No effect ☐ Not Likely to Adversely Affect ☐ Likely to Adversely Affect
(If checked, consider EIS)

Date to FWS/NMFS _____

Date FWS/NMFS Response _____

Floodplains/Wetlands/\$404 Permits

Data entered by: _____

Is project in 100- or 500-year floodplain, flash flood hazard area, or wetlands? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Exempt (See Floodplain Management Guideline, V. Scope, B. Excepted Actions)

If yes, statement of findings approval date _____

404 permit needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

State 401 permit/certification? ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

Note: if 404 permit is needed so is 401 permit.

Tribal Water Quality permit? ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

CZM Consistency determination needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

Other Permits/Laws

Data entered by: _____

Consistent with Wilderness Act ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

Wilderness minimum requirement (tool) decision needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

Wild and scenic river concerns? ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

National Trails concerns? ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

Air Quality consult w/State? ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

Consistent w/Architectural Barriers, Rehabilitation, and Americans with Disabilities Acts? ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

Other _____ ☐ Yes ☐ No Date _____

I. MITIGATING MEASURES TO BE INCLUDED IN PROJECT:

(Specify here or attach or reference appropriate pages from EA, EIS, FONSI, or ROD)

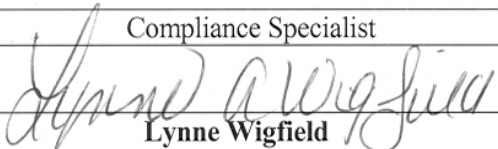
The *Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Wildland Fire Management Plan* outlines procedures that are to be implemented in the event of a wildland fire. A fire of this nature is an unplanned, emergency event. The plan outlines how suppression will be carried out with the most aggressive actions listed as a last resort. Cultural and natural resources, health and safety are the focus of the plan. Burned area restoration will be subject to separate compliance evaluations once the fire is suppressed.

The plan will be reviewed on an annual basis. Any changes or additions to enhance the plan can be implemented. Additionally, any prescribed burns, fuel management, etc. will be processed through NEPA prior to implementation.

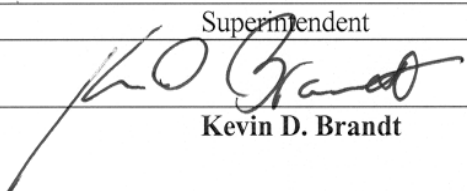
J. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for the subject project is complete. If the project involves hot topics or sensitive issues, I have briefed the deputy or regional director.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialist	Telephone Number	Date
 Lynne Wigfield	301-745-5802	11-18-04

Approved:

Superintendent	Telephone Number	Date
 Kevin D. Brandt	301-714-2201	11.19.2004